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"Suitability" Standard For Gov't Employees

By FULTON LEWIS Jr.

WASHINGTON: Republican leaders in Congress will soon attempt to sell President Eisenhower a completely reorganized set of regulations covering prospective Government employees.

A major change under study at present is the elimination of loyalty as a standard for employment. GOP leaders are frank to admit that this word will be dropped in an effort to still the outcries from Liberals and Left Wingers who always manage to work up a head of steam whenever one of their pets is fired from the payroll.

As a substitute for the loyalty designation, Senators, led by Homer Ferguson, Republican of Michigan, will use the word "suitability" in any new legislation. The current "security" designation as a standard for Government employment will be retained.

The basic philosophy behind any Government program set up to pass on employees is that no one has an inherent right to work for the Government. Instead, it is held even in the Supreme Court of the United States, that the government reserves the right to choose whom it desires to employ.

Right to Reject

Few critics are bold enough to question the Government's right to reject prospective employees who are labeled security risks. These usually include alcoholics and homosexuals or those just too gabby to be trusted with Government information.

Unless there is some evidence that an individual is an outright agent of a foreign government, the "loyalty" designation is not used in rejecting an individual. However, Communists and Left-Wingers close enough to the borderline to be suspected of being Communists, normally are designated loyalty risks and this is what sets their teeth to gnashing. The word does not have a broad definition. Its single meaning is painfully clear to anyone tagged with it.

"Suitability," however, can cover a multitude of sins and anyone labeled unsuitable can find comfort, if he so desires, in picking out his own definition.